

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application, and the indication that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 is amended herein to add the features of "the supporting plate is disposed between the diffuser and the reflecting plate" and "the retaining portion extends from the supporting plate to abut the reflective plate." For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

Rejection according to 35 USC 102

Regarding claim 1, the Office Action rejected this claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. published application 2002/0113924 to Saito. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In this regard, claim 1 (as amended) recites:

1. A direct backlight module comprising:
a diffuser;
a reflecting plate connected to the diffuser and forming a chamber therebetween;
a plurality of light sources disposed in the chamber; and
at least one transparent support disposed in the chamber to support the diffuser and the reflecting plate, wherein the at least one transparent support includes a retaining portion and a supporting plate *disposed between the diffuser and the reflecting plate, and the retaining portion extends from the supporting plate to abut the reflective plate.*

As emphasized above, the embodiments of claim 1 define a supporting plate that is disposed between the diffuser and the reflecting plate, and having a retaining portion that extends from the supporting plate to abut the reflective plate.

In contrast, Saito discloses an HLD that extends from the FLM-D and passes through the REF (reflecting plate) to abut the TPS. In the amended claim, the retaining portion only abuts the reflective plate, which means no hole is needed on the reflective plate. Therefore, the

structure of the claimed embodiment patently defines over Saito, and for at least this reason the rejection should be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 3, 6 and 7 (which were rejected on the same basis as claim 1), the rejection is overcome by the dependency of these claims from claim 1.

Rejection according to 35 USC 103

The Office Action rejected claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § as allegedly unpatentable over Saito. These claims ultimately depend from claim 1 and therefore patently define over the cited art for at least the same reason as claim 1.

CONCLUSION

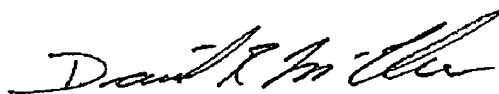
For at least the reasons described above, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Should Examiner feel that further discussion of the application and the Amendment is conducive to prosecution and allowance thereof, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the address and telephone listed below.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this Amendment and Response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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